

# FINANCIAL NEWS AND COMMENT

Stocks in Wall Street Rally Despite the European War Clouds.

## DEMORALIZATION ABROAD

### Engagement of \$3,600,000

#### More Gold for Export—

Jump in Wheat.

If the Wall Street stock market expressed to any extent the judgment of the local financial community yesterday on the distressing aspects of the European situation it was that the balance of probability strongly favored avoidance of the catastrophe of a war involving the European Powers.

Financial Europe was reported to be in a state of great excitement when Wall Street resumed business and the markets abroad were very weak. Real demoralization was reported on the Continental bourses and London closed at extensive declines, with prices around the low levels. American shares suffering losses of 1 to 2 points or more in the general slump. A fall of almost 2 points in British consols, with French rents down to .78, was evidence that Europe was taking the gravest view of the possibilities of the tense situation precipitated by Austria's note to Serbia. The difficult posture of affairs in the Irish home rule crisis was, like everything else abroad, overshadowed by the dark war clouds which rolled up in the European south-east.

Not for that matter was anything else considered, although it was manifest that the underlying sentiment of Wall Street was colored by the basic reasons which offer for regarding American values as probably at the bottom, unless they become involved in the development of a European Armageddon. As Armageddon in a stock market way of speaking, something which cannot be discounted, there was no inclination to unload long stocks or to increase bearish commitments. On the contrary, the Wall Street short interest took advantage of an unexpected and profitable opportunity which was suddenly presented to retire bearish contracts, and short covering contributed a large measure of support to quoted values. It is doubtful if any other kind of support was needed, although there were some indications that early protection was extended to leading issues by way of precaution against unwarmed decline.

Again Wall Street refused to follow cousin initiative in the establishment of the trading level of prices. The market opening was below Friday's close, but only in a few stocks in the international list, notably Canadian Pacific and Northern Pacific, was there a sharp recession in the very early dealings it became manifest, as in the Rock Island securities, New Haven and New York Central, that previous liquidation had already accounted for most of the advances and before the end of the first hour an all round rally of a half point or more from the initial depression was effected.

In the second and last hour recovery was carried further, although on less active transactions. Reading being one of the influential leaders of the upturn, and the close was quiet but strong, with a rather encouraging array of fractional gains over Friday's final figures. Selling off Europe was less than half done. Selected, and there was no more evidence of apprehensive realization on the part of domestic holders of stocks. The contingencies of the dangerous posture abroad were such as to preclude a disposition to take a decided speculative or investment stand one way or the other in the short week end session, but apparently some buying for the long account accompanied the purchases made by speculators for the fall. Throughout the morning the specialties and local stocks had but little movement.

It was taken for granted that every effort of diplomacy and financial influence was being exerted in Europe to avert the catastrophe which was discernible, and there was a good deal of readiness to believe a variety of private advices received late in the forenoon that if Austria made war on Serbia the conflict would be successfully localized. Credit in America was probably based on optimistic hope of a peaceful solution, but the financial community was glad that Sunday would present an intervening opportunity for the forces of peace to save civilization from having to dead next week with so terrible a calamity as suddenly loomed up in the last few days.

The spread of the fresh war cloud has helped to explain the peculiarities of the foreign financial markets during recent weeks. We have seen many temporary phenomena in which we have been interested, including among other things the European drain on our gold supplies. These have been as much the indications of preparations against or for war as they have been tokens of processes necessarily incidental to economic readjustment, and the latest phase of foreign difficulty had been expressed in an unseasonable recovery of foreign exchange. Demand sterling ruled a little below 4.885 yesterday and an engagement of \$3,600,000 for export was added to the total.

The weekly bank statement contained a little surprise in the way of a small increase of loans, \$3,250,000. The statement as a whole was significant of a further recovery of position which underwent so much deterioration about the turn of the midyear. Deposits increased \$14,000,000, but there was a cash gain of \$5,000,000, and the surplus reserve increased \$4,000,000.

No other financial or business factor of the period could possibly be considered as of comparable importance with the portents of international politics in Europe. Ever since the Balkan outbreak in 1912 the continental peoples have exhibited persistent fear that the resuming of the near Eastern question must sooner or later culminate in the tragedy of a general war. Whether or not the despatch of Austria's peremptory note to Serbia finds Europe unable to maintain the general peace remains to be seen. What is of more concern to us is the reflected effect on a European war, which would endeavor to realize heavily on its holdings of American securities, but there is no doubt also that in such an event the American people would be presented with a splendid chance to acquire securities which could not be dislodged from European hands except by the prospect of a disastrous war.

The postponement of decision in the Eastern rate case was one of the disappointments of the past month, which was the most recent major disappointment in the country. Political developments however in one respect gratifying in that they suggested a state of mind at Washington revealed in the matter of the Federal Reserve Board appointments and the litigation against the New Haven railroad, which could not be otherwise regarded than as a growing consciousness of public disapproval of the political causes which have operated to prevent restoration of business confidence.

Our advices were somewhat less satisfactory, and there seems to have been

## NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

Railroad and Other Shares.  
Saturday, July 25, 1914.

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## RAILROAD AND OTHER BONDS.

### THE BANK STATEMENT.

#### Increase in Cash and Surplus—Loans Expended.

Further rapid recovery was made by the banks last week from their midyear impairment. The most favorable feature of the weekly bank statement was the actual gain in cash of \$8,040,000. An expansion of \$3,250,000 in the loan item was unexpected, but the actual surplus reserves were increased \$4,662,000 and now amount to \$26,173,750, which is about 12,000,000 more than the amount held in the corresponding week of last year.

The weekly statement of the Clearing House Association compares as follows with the previous week's figures:

#### ACTUAL CONDITION

Changes from Previous week.

Loans ..... \$2,652,070,000 Inc. \$2,250,000  
Sight ..... 20,000,000 Inc. 5,479,000  
Time ..... 10,000,000 Inc. 5,479,000  
Deposits ..... 1,000,000 Inc. 1,000,000  
Circulation ..... 41,740,000 Dec. 16,210,000  
Tst cos. cash in vts ..... 24,209,000 Inc. 3,666,000  
Agrz cash res. ..... 467,870,000 Inc. 8,040,000

Surplus res. ..... 25,175,000 Inc. 4,062,000

#### AVERAGE CONDITION

Loans ..... \$2,658,470,000 Dec. \$1,822,000  
Sight ..... 20,000,000 Inc. 5,952,000  
Time ..... 10,000,000 Inc. 5,952,000  
Deposits ..... 1,067,210,000 Inc. 5,759,000  
Circulation ..... 41,741,000 Dec. 16,210,000  
Tst cos. cash in vts ..... 24,209,000 Inc. 3,666,000  
Agrz cash res. ..... 467,870,000 Inc. 8,040,000

The appended table gives the percentage of cash reserves to deposits of the more prominent banks and trust companies:

#### Last Prev. Week.

Bank of New York ..... 26.7 26.0  
Bank of Manhattan ..... 26.9 26.5  
National City ..... 26.8 26.0  
Chemical National ..... 26.8 25.3  
American Exchange National ..... 29.2 25.2  
Hanover National ..... 27.0 25.5  
Citizen Central National ..... 25.6 25.7  
Commercial Trust ..... 26.2 25.5  
First National ..... 26.1 25.4  
Irving National ..... 25.3 25.3  
Seaboard National ..... 27.4 26.8  
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Important changes in cash holdings and loans of the banks and trust companies are as follows:

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